

MINUTES of COUNCIL OF COMMODORES' MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2019

LOCATION: Mimico Cruising Club

Present:

Chair Council of Commodores-Carol Trupke; AYC-Ken Daisley; APSC-Scott Jones; ABYC-Howard Franklin; ABYC-Paul Brennan; BC-Geoffrey Wright; BC-John Italiano; BHYC-Peter Kirkwood; BQYC-Steve Macklin; CBYC-George Vasil; CBYC-Bob Murphy; CBYC-Brian Knoll; EYC-Michael Claydon; EYC-David Hymers; FPYC-Jay Kirk; HCYC-Penny McDonald; HYC-David Bruyey; LSYC-Dawn Gardham; MCC-Bill McCarroll; MCC-Jerome Jackson; NYC-Silvio Conto; NYC-Rob Wilkinson; OC-Mickie Angas; OHCC-Peter Hale; OPBC-Peter White; OYS-Joel Hundert; QCYC-Genia Vanderkruk; TMCC-Paul Howard; WSC-Stephanie Stalinski; OS-Glenn Lethbridge; Secretary-Krystal Smith; Presenter-Lisa Roddie

Absent:

BPYC-Rob Brodie; CYC-Mike Hubicki; DYC-Simon Krall; FBYC-Samuel Cummings; HBSC-Bob Allin; IYC-Michael Givens; MSC-Jason Shabtai; NYCSC-Michael Rushton; OHSF-Paul Chandler; PCYC-John Lever; RCYC-Jamie Keating; RHYC-Jan Graves Passmore; SBSC-Howard Forder; SJTSC-Michael Tersigni; TH&SC-Richard Peirce; TSCC-Bob Stevenson; WRSC-Norm Lamb; WYC-Kenneth Armes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair Carol Trupke called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

All Commodores or representatives and guests introduced themselves, stating their position and club.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED by Michael Claydon and **SECONDED** by Geoffrey Wright. **All in Favour!**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 3, 2019

MOVED by George Vasil and **SECONDED** by Genia Vanderkruk that the minutes of the meeting held on June 3, 2019 be approved. **All in Favour!**

5. PRESENTATION – COAST

Presented by Lisa Roddie (COAST Manager)

- Rowan's Law
 - July 1, 2019 was the implementation of the first phase of Rowan's Law (Ontario's concussion law)
 - Effective July 1st, there were certain requirements for anyone running a sailing school and those running club racing and involved anyone under the age of 26. This required compliance in ensuring that participants had reviewed the concussion resources and signed a code of conduct.
 - The second phase of Rowan's Law will come into effect in 2020 and involve ensuring that you have removal and terms for these processes in place and that you are communicating it with your participants. There will be more roll-out of information and some updates to the procedures in the future.
 - Ontario Sailing is encouraging clubs to consider this for all ages although the law only considers those 26 years of age and under.
 - There is concussion page on the Ontario Sailing website at <https://ontariosailing.ca/concussion-information/>.
- AGM / By-Laws
 - A reminder to follow your By-Laws. By-Laws are about the governance of your club. Operational pieces should be under your Policies and Procedures, Codes of Conduct, etc. By-Laws should be limited to the governance of who's a voting member, what is the relationship, what the Board's responsibility when reporting back to the members, etc.
 - You are required to have your financials available to your members 21 days prior to your AGM.
 - You are required to report any changes to your Board of Directors to Service Ontario through a Form 1 within 15 days of your AGM.
- If you have any questions or need any help with governance, Lisa can be reached at lisa@ontariosailing.ca
 - **Question 1:** If you don't have a Junior Sailor Program but you have weekly keelboat racing and there's people aboard who are under 26 years of age, do you need to be compliant?
 - **Answer 1:** According to the law, it depends on the level of organization that the event has. For example, if you have weekly races where you keep track of participants and points and perhaps give out a trophy at the end of the season, the answer would be yes ... as opposed to weekly races where everyone that's available just drops in to race and it's random every week. However, Ontario Sailing is encouraging all clubs to have everyone review and sign off on the concussion resources, regardless of age, as a level of education and awareness.
 - **Question 2:** When will the Not-For-Profit act come into effect?
 - **Answer 2:** Lisa wasn't sure but had heard rumblings that it would be in the spring of 2020.

6. UPDATES FROM THE COMMODORES

1. Boulevard Club

- a. What are clubs doing around hiring children of club members to work at the club as junior sailing coaches, etc. (not necessarily waiting tables, etc.)? It is presently against Boulevard Club's by-laws but he's wondering what other clubs are doing.
 - i. Queen City Yacht Club – they will hire children of members as long as they are not reporting directly to their parent ... no direct reporting relationship. They encourage everyone to remember privacy laws around employees and if the child is an employee, their behaviour and/or progress cannot be discussed with the parents.
 - ii. Etobicoke Yacht Club – they will hire children of members. They have mechanisms in place to make sure that parents are not involved in the decision making regarding their children (e.g. hiring processes, etc.)
 - iii. Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club – they will hire children of members for yard staff and sailing instructors and have never had a problem.
 - iv. Ontario Sailing – there are a limited number of instructors these days and they see more and more clubs hiring members' children for these roles. Ontario Sailing encourages clubs to have strong policies around the hiring of members' children ... this is key. There have been situations where the hiring has not worked out and there have been significant issues. Make sure that there are no conflicts of interests.
 - v. Port Credit Yacht Club – they will hire children of members and it has worked out.

2. Mimico Cruising Club

- a. They are wondering if all the clubs have received their tax refunds. They filed an objection and were wondering if they haven't gotten their refund because of it.
 - i. Some have ... some haven't.

3. Oakville Power Boat Club

- a. They now offer diesel fuel for power boaters.
- b. If a member has different levels of membership, do they get a combined card or separate cards for each membership?
 - i. Highland Yacht Club – they have Senior Member Cards and Crew Member Cards.
 - ii. Queen City Yacht Club – they have different colour cards for each type of membership.
 - iii. Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club – they have one card that shows different statuses on it.
 - iv. Boulevard Club – they have one card and one membership level.

4. Boulevard Club

- a. What are clubs doing to ensure that boats that show up at their club are actually from reciprocal clubs? Are they checking cards, verifying with their home clubs, etc?
 - i. Oakville Yacht Squadron – they check to see if they have a card but they don't verify. They do have an issue with burgees. How do you check?
 - ii. Royal Canadian Yacht Club issues Visitor Cards and therefore Geoffrey (commodore, Boulevard Club) would like to see Boulevard Club adopt the same process.
 - iii. Oakville Club – they now have a new locking system for getting into the club at night and exiting the club through the lower parking lot. The dock manager is verifying people when they call in to register for a slip ... they have to show their membership card when they get there. They will be changing this in the future and issuing Visitor Cards. In regards to burgees ... they know of two boats that are flying Oakville Club burgees that aren't members any more ... therefore, they wouldn't recommend depending on burgees for reciprocals.

5. Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club

- a. What are clubs doing to attract social/associate members? CBYC lacks in this area.
 - i. Etobicoke Yacht Club – they limit the number of social memberships. However, at present, they are trying to identify those people that accompany their members often and should, by all rights, be social members.
 - ii. Oakville Power Boat Club – a lot of times, it comes down to the facility. If it doesn't have a restaurant or a pool, there are additional challenges. Keeping your club open all year, having events, encouraging members to join committees, etc. will all draw people to your club.
 - iii. Toronto Multihull Cruising Club – be inviting! Don't challenge people for being on your property (unless they're being destructive).

6. Westwood Sailing Club

- a. What are clubs doing around older members who may begin to pose a safety hazard with regard to their sailing skills? WSC owns the boats and members sail those boats.
 - i. Mimico Cruising Club – they cancel the person's membership citing safety issues. Their by-laws back this decision. The problem then becomes disposing of the boat.
 - ii. Aquatic Park Sailing Club – when they start seeing older members going through this, other members start asking that member to join them as crew on their boat. This helps with the transition.
 - iii. COAST – Lisa has other clubs that own their own boats that have incorporated a mandatory safety session at the beginning of the season.

7. National Yacht Club

- a. They have a Senior Life Membership category with voting rights. The longer you're a member at the club, the less you pay for membership until it becomes free (as an honorary member). Do other clubs have a similar membership? Last year it cost NYC approximately \$50,000.
 - i. Westwood Sailing Club – they have this as well but find that it results in revenue loss. They don't have a lot of people with it right now but they have a lot of people approaching this category.
 - ii. One club has this membership category but they limit it to five (5). As one drops off, the next one in the queue gets included in the five.
 - iii. Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club – they have two categories of life members. One is for Associates who have served the club as an associate for a number of years. For Sr. Life Members, they are no longer charged a membership fee and retain their right to vote. ABYC can appoint a maximum of one per year.
 - iv. Highland Yacht Club – they have a Life Membership but this can only be achieved when the member resigns their Senior Membership. They do not retain their vote. They have had discussions about eliminating the Life Membership but the membership did not like the idea.
 - v. Etobicoke Yacht Club – Life Membership is merit-based. The decision is made by the Board. It is given to someone who the Board and the members feel deserve it. They remain a Senior Member but their fees are waived and they retain their vote but this is rare. They do however have a system set up for work hours ... when you get to a certain number of years at the club, your work hours are reduced or even eliminated.
 - vi. Oakville Power Boat Club – they have a Lifetime membership but it takes 25 years to qualify and the person has to be endorsed by another member in good standing and it has to be approved by the Board. They still pay their docking fees but not their annual boating fees.
 - vii. Outer Harbour Centreboard Club – they do not have any issues at their club.
 - viii. Mimico Cruising Club – they have Lifetime A (active boaters) and Lifetime B (based on longevity, etc.) memberships. In their history, they have only given out two Lifetime A memberships. Lifetime B members get the Social Membership.
 - ix. Port Credit Yacht Club – they have age-related discounts totally based on age and not on how long one has been a member of the club.

8. There are limited spots for storage of boats in downtown Toronto now. Does anyone have any ideas for winter storage?

- a. Westwood Sailing Club and Mooredale Sailing Club offer winter storage for keel boats.
- b. A couple of members of QCYC are storing at Port Dalhousie and one is storing at Wilson Yacht Club in the USA.
- c. Port Credit Yacht Club offers reciprocal mooring but we may be full.

7. ONTARIO SAILING REPORT

Presented by Glenn Lethbridge, Executive Director

- a) He would like clubs with Learn-to-Sail programs to consider giving Ontario Sailing the pay levels of their instructors. The information will be kept strictly confidential. You can send the information to Krystal at info@ontariosailing.ca.
- b) Make sure that you have Regatta Liability Insurance. This will cover you for on-the-water liability.
- c) Sail Canada's Annual General Meeting is taking place in October in Montreal. If you cannot make the meeting, please consider signing a proxy form giving Ontario Sailing the right to vote on your behalf at the meeting.
- d) Ontario Sailing's Annual General Meeting is on November 9th at ABYC. There will be workshops in the morning, an Awards Luncheon, followed by our AGM in the afternoon. Our membership will be voting on our updated By-Laws at the AGM. All the information can be found on the Ontario Sailing website.
- e) High Water Levels –
 - i. Ontario Sailing has been working closely with Boating Ontario.
 - ii. One of the challenges is making sure that everyone is sending the same message to the government.
 - iii. Boating Ontario has reached into their community and came up with a considerable amount of money donated by some of their members to hire a lobby firm from Ottawa.
 - iv. If you have any pictures of the high water levels at your club, please send them to Krystal at info@ontariosailing.ca.
 - v. The International Joint Commission (IJC) tend to hide behind Plan 2014. They held public meetings to deal with water quality (not quantity). Rick Layzell (Boating Ontario) was able to speak in Collingwood and ask about water quantity. Glenn was able to ask questions at the meeting in Goderich. The IJC tells you that there are only 2 areas in the Great Lakes that they control ... one is in Lake Superior coming downwards and the other is at the end of Lake Ontario. Right now, they say that they are letting off 10,400 cubic metres per second (maximum is 10,000).
 1. Glenn asked 3 questions at the meeting:
 - a. The 2014 plan compared to the 1958 plan. In the 1958 plan there were benchmarks for high levels and low levels and when water would be held back or let off. Why isn't there benchmarks in the 2014 plan? The response was that the 2014 plan was only an update to the 1958 plan which didn't make sense.
 - b. Typically in the fall when Lake Ontario drains down considerably, will you now continue to let water off? They would not answer the question.
 - c. Will there be public meetings regarding water quantity as there had been for water quality? They would not answer the question.
 2. Part of the problem is that we're up against the shipping industry and they control the messages.

- vi. Brian Knoll indicated that he read an article from late 2017 that blamed part of the reason for high Lake Ontario levels in 2017 on the high levels on Lake Huron in 2012-2014. The article indicated that it takes about 3 years for the effect to hit Lake Ontario. This year, Lake Huron is at an all-time high so where are we going to be in 3 years? Also, in late July, U.S. FEMA published a report that indicated that if you were going to build infrastructure on Lake Ontario, you should build it to 77.5 metres above sea level which is about 5 feet above what our peak was this year.
 - vii. There is an IJC survey circulating. Glenn encourages everyone to respond to it.
- f) If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to Glenn at execdir@ontariosailing.ca.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates for future meetings are:

- o **Monday, December 2, 2019** ... Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club
- o **Monday, March 2, 2020** Whitby Yacht Club
- o **Monday, June 1, 2020** ... National Yacht Club
- o **Monday, September 14, 2020** ... Etobicoke Yacht Club

10. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.